

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00383 160927Z

80

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /063 W

----- 125651

R 151514Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9761

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 0383

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS--THREE LIKUD FACTIONS MERGE

REF: 75 TEL AVIV 0687

1. THREE LIKUD FACTIONS OFFICIALLY MERGED ON JAN 15 TO FORM A NEW EIGHT-MEMBER PARTY WITHIN THE LIKUD (STATE LIST WITH FIVE MKS, THE INDEPENDENT CENTER WITH TWO, AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL MOVEMENT WITH ONE). THE NEW GROUP CALLS ITSELF, CONFUSINGLY ENOUGH, THE NATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENT.

2. THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF NEW PARTY IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF THE HARDLINE PROGRAM OF MENAHEM BEGIN'S HERUT PARTY. ITS PLATFORM STATES THAT THE ENTIRE AREA OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL IS THE "PROMISED LAND" TO WHICH JEWS ARE RETURNING BY RIGHT, AND CALLS FOR ISRAELI JURISDICTION TO BE APPLIED TO ALL AREAS UNDER ISRAEL'S CONTROL. IT OPPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POLITICAL ENTITY, OTHER THAN AN ISRAELI ONE, BETWEEN THE PRE-1967 BORDERS AND THE JORDAN RIVER, THUS REJECTING THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY PALESTINIAN ENTITY WHATSOEVER ON THE WEST BANK.

3. THE NEW PARTY'S KNESSET REPRESENTATION IS IN ALL LIKELIHOOD FAR IN EXCESS OF ITS POPULAR SUPPORT. IN 1969, THE LAST TIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00383 160927Z

THAT THE STATE LIST STOOD FOR AN ELECTION SEPARATELY,

IT OBTAINED ONLY FOUR SEATS AND THAT WAS UNDER BEN-GURION'S LEADERSHIP. IN 1973, BEFORE THE LIKUD MERGER, MANY OBSERVERS THOUGHT IT WAS DOOMED TO EXTINCTION. THE INDEPENDENT CENTER AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL MOVEMENT HAVE NEVER STOOD SEPARATELY FOR ELECTIONS. THE MERGER'S BENEFIT FOR THOSE INVOLVED LIES IN THE EXPECTATION THAT IF THE LIKUD MAINTAINS ITS PRESENT STRENGTH OR BETTER IN THE NEXT ELECTION, IT WILL CARRY THESE ELEMENTS WITH IT.

4. THE MERGER LEAVES SHNUEL TAMIR'S TWO-MEMBER FREE CENTER PARTY--WHICH IS RELATIVELY FLEXIBLE ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES (E.G. IT ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERIM AGREEMENTS)--AS THE SMALLEST FACTION IN THE LIKUD AND DEEPENS ITS ALREADY PRONOUNCED ISOLATION. LIBERAL PARTY MODERATES AND THE FREE CENTER ITSELF THUS REGARD THE MERGER WITH A GREAT DEAL OF APPREHENSION. THE CHANCES OF THE FREE CENTER BREAKING FROM THE LIKUD ARE NOW GREATER THAN EVER. INDEED, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, TAMIR VIRTUALLY ADMITTED AS MUCH IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WHEN HE SAID THAT THE DAY WAS NOT FAR OFF WHEN HE MIGHT BE FORCED OUT OF THE LIKUD.  
TOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH, PARTY FACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TELAV00383  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760017-0757  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760152/aaaabucf.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TEL AVIV 687  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <25 JUN 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS--THREE LIKUD FACTIONS MERGE  
**TAGS:** PINT, IS, LIKUD, NATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006